

Draft minutes
PTBC Meeting of November 17, 2009
4:00 p.m. First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendance: Fran VanTreese, Helene Ver Eecke, Karen Kowles, Chris Slemph, Andrew Melnechuk, Richard Fein, Walter Wolnik,, Rob Kusner, Terry Forrest, Stephanie O'Keefe

Fran called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. A quorum was not present until 4:30.

Fran noted that the route 32 ridership had increased in October from the September ridership.

The minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved.

Terry and Karen raised a question about the obligation of banks that received federal bailout money to give financial support to the communities in which they are located. Some ideas were shared about encouraging banks located in Amherst to do that.

Fran asked for committee updates

Chris referenced a letter regarding Save our Stop and a letter from Town manager Larrry Shaffer to James A. Alisi, Executive Office of Transportation (Mass) supporting the (hoped for) funding of two rail improvement grants through ARPA.

Fran reported that the committee dealing with the Norwottuck Trail met with the engineers about widening to 10 feet. No firm commitments were made regarding engineering solutions to wetland and beaver issues. Hadley is concerned about trees and wetlands. Some users of the path want bathrooms on the trail, but that is not in the plan.

Karen reported on the Umass engineering student project for a bike connect in North Amherst. Several ideas about routes were suggested by PTBC members.

Rob spoke about the 116 project. The PTBC approved sending a letter to the Select Board in support of including bike paths .

Jeff Brown from Ride Buzz spoke to the PTBC about our committee helping his group influence the Town to support ride sharing. Several questions were raised by PTBC members about what exactly Jeff wanted us to do. The discussion will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 22 starting at 4:00 pm**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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(Minutes drafted by Richard Fein)